

6. (Currently Amended) A method for the dechlorinization of an aqueous solution comprising the following steps:

generating sulphurous acid on-site and on-demand from combustion of elemental sulphur; and

passively introducing the sulphurous acid capable of effecting dechlorinization of the aqueous solution into the pressurized line of aqueous solution, wherein a differential pressure between the sulphurous acid and the pressurized line of aqueous solution draws the acid into the pressurized line of aqueous solution.

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

The rejection cited by the Examiner misconstrue the teachings of the Lewis (US 4,996,757) reference. Neither the abstract nor claim 1 of the Lewis reference teach introducing sulphur gases or an acid of sulphur into a pressurized line or conduit of solution. The Abstract of Lewis and its discussion of negative pressures related to drawing air or oxygen-containing gases into the primary and secondary burn chambers to fuel sulphur combustion in the primary burn chamber and to mix with sulphur gases in the secondary burn chamber, respectively. There is no teaching of introducing sulphur gases or an acid of sulphur into any pressurized lines of solution or aqueous solution. This distinction of the present invention is clarified in the amended claims.

Furthermore, the introduction of sulphur gases to a solution in the Lewis reference is accomplished in a tower in which sulphur gases and a shower of water flow in counter-current

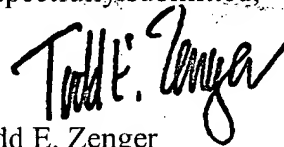
directions. Because the Lewis reference lacks any teaching or suggestion of introducing sulphur gases or an acid of sulphur into a pressurized line of solution, the section 102 and 103 rejections are properly traversed and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim set provided herein does not add new matter and is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants therefore request favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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